

The Present STATE OF THE VAUDOIS; Drawn out of Three LETTERS.

- I. *One from Mr. Cox, Their Majesty's Envoy in Switzerland.*
- II. *The second from Monsieur de Loches, their Colonel.*
- III. *The last from Monsieur Arnaud Minister of the Vaudois.*

I. *Part of a Letter of the Honourable Thomas Cox, Esquire, His Majesty's Extraordinary Envoy into Switzerland concerning the Vaudois, Dated at Berne the 25th of October, Old Style, 1690.*

AS for our little Army of *Vaudois, Piemontois, and French Refugees*, consisting of about 3000 fighting Men under Colonel *des Loches*, and his two Lieutenant Colonels, *Julien & Mallet*; notwithstanding that, they have been hitherto divided into three small bodies, at *Saxa, Lucerne and Briqueras*, they have behaved themselves well upon all occasions offered, and particularly at *Lutetia*, where they killed 7 or 800 French, with the loss of 25 or 30 only on their side, and but four or five *Piemontois* of their small number, and took two Colours from them which I sent to the King by the Messenger that carry'd the Treaty, as the First-fruits of their Courage in those Parts. Their Encouragement and Subsistence is of vast importance to the good Cause and the Protestant Religion, both there and in all these parts of the World; besides the inexpressible consequence it is of, as a back Door, and indeed the only safe and certain Inlet into *France*. Oh what glorious things might be done in all *Europe*, and particularly in this, for its Freedom and Deliverance, and for the Honour of the Protestant Religion, if the Parliament would without delay in this extraordinary Conjunction of Affairs, assist the King so vigorously and plentifully, as to enable Him to finish Honourably and Successfully those noble and important Concerns that lye before Him; both at Home and Abroad, and to the compleating of which, God has call'd him in so wonderful a manner?

We are in great straits what to do about the distressed *Vaudois* Families, (I mean the Women, Old Men, and Children among them, for the Men that can bear Arms are in the Vallies) that are come into these parts before their time, in impatient hopes of returning into their old Habitations. They came without Order, there being nothing ready for them; yet in the Vallies where all Houses are burnt and destroyed, and no possibility of sow-

ing Corn this year, great Numbers of them are like to starve and perish for want of Bread, all the Collections of all sorts for them in these Parts, being totally at an end. It would be a most generous, Christian, and seasonable Assistance, if we could get another very speedy, though small Collection, from *England and Holland*, without which, I see no way to avoid their perishing. Monsieur *Arnaud* is come to see his Family at *Nen Chappel*, and returns speedily into the Vallies. He spent two or three days with me here. The whole History of the Subsistence, Deliverance and Victories of these Protestants in the Vallies, is a continued Miracle, and would make a good Protestant of a professed Atheist, if he were not arriv'd to the last and fatal degree of Obduration. I have perswaded and finally determined him, as he assures me, to begin speedily, and to finish a second *History of the Vaudois*, and of all the Miracles that have attended their whole late State and Concerns, which I desire him may be much more circumstantiated and particular, than that of Monsieur *Lager*, his Nephew, who is settled a Professor at *Geneva*, and was employed there in the late Collection of *England and Holland* for the *Vaudois*. I desir'd Monsieur *Arnaud* to consult for some Papers, &c. and I hear he is now at *Geneva* for that purpose.

II. *Part of a Letter of Monsieur de Loches, Colonel of the Vaudois.*

A Fortnight ago I had notice given me, that the Enemy, whose Army which was Encamp'd near *Carmagnole*, had caused their first Line to March, with six pieces of Cannon, and that the rest follow'd them close on purpose to exterminate those of the Religion, and totally to ruin them in these Vallies. and that Monsieur *Catinat* and other Generals of the French Army had publickly made known this their Design. I do not in the least doubt of this Intelligence, for our Troops daily Intercepting their Convoys, and being a continual plague to the Garrison of *Pignerol*, it was likely they would do their utmost to be rid of them: I writ to His Royal Highness about it, and to some others at *Turin*,

Turin, who knew very well how few Men I had with me, without Money, or Provision; most of them without Cloaths, Shoes or Stockings, and several of them Sick: His Royal Highness did me the Honour to Answer me by three Couriers one after another, That it was true he had been Inform'd the Enemy had such a Design, but that the condition his Army was in would not permit him to oppose it; and therefore I should do well to leave the Vallies, and so gain the Hills towards *Cony*, 15 or 20 Leagues from hence.

I must confess that in this occasion I visibly found that God by his Providence did watch for our Preservation. For notwithstanding the evident dangers I was expos'd to, instead of Flying, as I was advis'd, he so strengthened me, that I resolv'd to stand the Enemy. Accordingly I did send a Detachment of a 130 to the Town of *Barges*, three Leagues from this place; where on the third instant, being Attackt, they Fought so well Retreating, that they kill'd many of the Enemy, and following the Orders which I had given them, they retir'd to a Village call'd *Bibiane*, that is half a League from hence. There they were Joyn'd by another Detachment of 90 Men, which I had posted in that place. The next day at 11 in the morning they were Attackt by 8 Squadrons of Horse and Dragoons, and as many Battalions of Foot, the best Troops of all the French Army, Commanded by the Marquis *de Feuquieres* Lieutenant General. Our Men made their Discharge at them, but when they were very near, got out of the Village, and Disputed the Ground with so much courage, that they stop't the Enemy in every Post that did any wise favour their Retreat, killing several Officers and Soldiers; which when I heard, I Detach'd a Captain with 50 Men to back them, and being Inform'd that they gave ground, I sent two several times Lieutenants with 20 Men to Facilitate their Retreat: But their obstinacy hindred them from executing my Orders, and being got within Cannon shot of this Town, they gain'd the Hills of *Rouva*. Then the whole Body of the Enemy fell upon *Lucerne*, all the Inhabitants whereof are Papists, and which being Dismantell'd, lies open on all sides. By the help of God I stop't the Enemy for 3 hours, hindred them from passing over a stone Bridg, and forced them to wade through the River, where they lost several Officers and Soldiers; but being overpowered by their number, I Retir'd to a Hill that commanded this Town; from whence I sent Orders to the *Vaudois*, who keep the Post of the Vallies of *St. Germain*, *St. Bartholomew*, and *St. John*, to Joyn with all speed. The Enemy Detach'd their Vanguard, which enter'd the Town a quarter of an hour before Night, burnt some Houses, kill'd 8 or 10 Women, some old sick Men, and little Children who could not get away, having made no greater stay than was necessary for their Troops to March off. Monsieur *de Feuquieres* made a show as if he would have Encamp'd near the Town, by making a great number of Fires there; but

soon after he caus'd his Men to March towards *Pignerol* without Drum or Trumpet, and without committing any other act of Hostility upon the Lands of the Protestants, being favoured by a thick Fog, and making use but of two Lights; but when they had got half a League off, they lighted above a thousand, and begun to beat their Drums. This hasty March broke all the Measures I had taken to fall upon his Rear the next day, and to pursue the *Sieur de Feuquieres* in the same manner as we had done when we came into the Vallies. I have lost in all these Attacks, a Serjeant and three Soldiers; and some Wounded; and the *Sieur de Feuquieres*, to hide his loss, Order'd his Dead to be Buried in the way, so that we met with Graves at every step. I am come back into *Lucerne*, and thank God with all my Heart that he has permitted us, with a handful of Men, to baffle the most cruel Design that ever was Formed against these Vallies.

III. Part of a Letter written to a Gentleman of Note by Monsieur Arnaud, Minister of the *Vaudois*, who in Autumn last year, brought the first of them back into the Vallies of *Piemont*, from whence they had been totally expell'd, and who was there with them in continual service against an Army of 13000 French; the *Vaudois* having no other Captain to command them in all their Engagements, till Midsummer last.

MAY I beg of you, Sir, to continue your charitable Offices in the behalf of these poor and distressed *Vaudois*, whereof the greatest part is already in *Piemont*, and the remainder of them in *Geneva* and *Switzerland*, among the *Grisons*, and at *Wittenberg*. As for my own particular, I cannot but praise God for the health, which by his Blessing I have enjoy'd, having not had the least Indisposition, notwithstanding the inconceivable Fatigues I have suffer'd, with my 367 brave Soldiers and good Christians: I praise him also for his Divine Assistance, which has enabled us to resist the Devil and 13000 Men, both from *France* and *Piemont*, without any Commander, Money, Supplies, Intelligence, Habitations, and without Bread: But God who Confounds the strongest things by the weakest Instruments he makes use of, hath brought our Affairs to the pass wherein they are now. Pray Sir give our Friends to understand that our Vallies may open to them the surest way to mortifie the common Enemy. I am Inform'd by Letters, That he hath taken *Saxe* by Composition. There is a Mystery in it. Our Men have Surpriz'd and Taken *Chateau Dauphin*. I suppose they will stop there, the season of the Year being too far spent.

We are about Publishing the History of the Miracles, which God has wrought in behalf of his Children, that all the World may know there is a God in Heaven, to raise up his Witnests when the time markt out by his Providence is come. I Implore his Heavenly Blessing for the Preservation of our King, &c.

From *Lucerne* the 5th of Novemb. 1690.